



countdown

November 6, 2008

Vol. 13, No. 83

Ares I-X simulator segments arriving at VAB

◆ **Ares Update:** The first major flight hardware of the Ares I-X rocket arrived in Florida on Monday night (see below) to begin preparation for the inaugural test flight of the agency's next-generation launch system. The test flight is targeted for July 12, 2009.



The Ares I-X upper stage simulator traveled to Port Canaveral aboard the Delta Mariner, a ship that

also transports the Delta IV rocket for United Launch Alliance. The flight hardware was moved off the barge Wednesday into high bay 4 of the VAB.

The upper stage simulator comprises 11 individual components that were designed and manufactured during a two-year period at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. The components represent the size, outer shape and weight of the second stage of the Ares I rocket. They will be integrated in the VAB. The upper stage simulator eventually will be stacked atop the solid rocket booster segments of the Ares I-X rocket.

The Ares I-X test flight will provide NASA an early opportunity to test and prove hardware, facilities and ground operations associated with the Ares I crew launch vehicle. It also will allow NASA to gather critical data during ascent of the integrated Orion crew exploration vehicle and the Ares I rocket. The data will ensure the entire vehicle system is safe and fully operational before astronauts begin traveling to orbit.

Next NASA NOAA satellite to launch from Vandenberg

◆ **ELV Update:** NOAA-N Prime is the latest polar-orbiting operational environmental weather satellite developed by NASA for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA. The satellite arrived Tuesday by C-5A military cargo aircraft at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California in preparation for a Feb. 4 launch.

NOAA-N Prime, built by Lockheed Martin, is similar to NOAA-N launched on May 20, 2005. The satellite will be launched from the Western Range at Vandenberg AFB by a United Launch Alliance two-stage Delta II rocket managed by NASA's Launch Service Program at KSC.

NOAA-N Prime will provide a platform to support environmental monitoring instruments for imaging and measuring the Earth's atmosphere, its surface and cloud cover, including Earth radiation, atmospheric ozone, aerosol distribution, sea surface temperature and vertical temperature and water profiles in the troposphere and stratosphere. The satellite will assist in measuring proton and electron fluxes at orbit altitude, collecting data from remote platforms to assist the Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking system.

■ November Health Education Information Table

— The monthly health education table will be set up on today in the KSC MFF Cafeteria from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. where Health Education and Wellness Program staff will disseminate staph and infectious disease information. Staphylococcus, or staph, infections



are communicable conditions caused by certain bacteria and generally are characterized by the formation of abscesses. They are the leading cause of primary infections originating in hospitals in the United States.

In the past, most lethal staph infections occurred in people who were hospitalized or had a chronic illness or weakened immune system. Now, a growing number of otherwise healthy people, also are developing life-threatening staph infections outside of hospitals. Though most staph infections can still be successfully treated, there is a concern that the bacteria might become resistant to all currently available medications.

The on-line information packet is posted under the "Monthly Health Topics" section of the HEWP Web site at: <http://hewp.ksc.nasa.gov/mthly.cfm>. Hard copies also will be available at all medical and fitness facilities.

■ **Holiday Massage Discounts** — Available through Jan. 6, a 30-minute massage is \$20 and a 1-hour massage is **only** \$30. Discounts also are available for gift certificates, which make a great holiday gift! Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday- Friday. Call Valerie at 867-4762 or send an e-mail to valerie.s.jaramillo@nasa.gov for an appointment.

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